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**TITLE: Manage Hook & Line Lake Sturgeon Areas Independently**

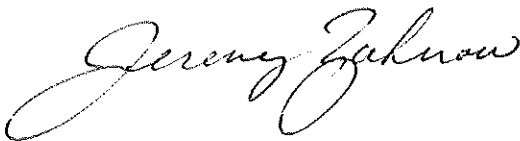
**CONCERN:** Wisconsin has 12 hook and line Lake Sturgeon Harvest areas. Currently these Sturgeon areas are managed with statewide uniform regulations for season length and size regulations regardless of different Sturgeon population characteristics. Population estimates, size structure, and angler harvest rates vary amongst areas.

Some of these areas are not achieving the desired management goals and objectives of the DNR's "Emergency Lake Sturgeon Rule" implemented in 2007, which targeted overharvest of mature Sturgeon. Although the annual exploitation rate of 5% has been the management goal of the DNR for Lake Sturgeon, anglers in some areas are harvesting much less fish. In areas such as the "Menominee River" anglers are experiencing harvest rates less than 1% each year.

Currently the DNR manages many different lakes, for many different fish, with specific or special regulations. If there is one fish deserving of being managed by area specific independent rules and not a blanket, uniform, statewide rule it is most certainly Wisconsin's Lake Sturgeon.

**PROPOSAL:** By allowing different Hook & Line Lake Sturgeon areas to be managed independently of one another instead of developing statewide uniform rules, the DNR would be able to achieve more accurate results to help manage Sturgeon fisheries that have different population characteristics. This may give the DNR the flexibility to modify open and closed seasons, establish catch and release seasons, and increase or decrease minimum sizes, in each specific area.

Be it resolved, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Waukesha County on April 8, 2013, recommends that the Congress work with the Department to take action, by introducing a rule change to **Manage Hook & Line Lake Sturgeon Areas Independently.**



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